



CTGROWSHEMP.org

**Testimony in Support of
Proposed Bill No. 5780
An Act Legalizing Industrial Hemp**

"That the general statutes be amended to legalize industrial hemp. To define industrial hemp to parallel its definition under the federal Agricultural Act of 2014, to exclude it from the definition of controlled substance under Connecticut law and to ensure related licensing and regulatory oversight in this state conforms to said act"

Statement of Purpose: TO LEGALIZE INDUSTRIAL HEMP IN CONNECTICUT

General Law Committee
Feb 24, 2015

Good afternoon, Senator Leone and Representative Baram and members of the General Law Committee. I am Margot Johnstone. Today, I am here to testify on behalf of CT GROWS HEMP **In Support of Proposed Bill No. 5780 – AN ACT LEGALIZING HEMP**. CT GROWS HEMP is an organization to create awareness, support, information and education, for the importance of legalizing, (non-psychoactive Cannabis sativa L.) **INDUSTRIAL HEMP**.

Passing Proposed Bill 5780 will create the opportunity for CT to become a part of the growing **INDUSTRIAL HEMP** economy, by redefining **INDUSTRIAL HEMP** not as a Schedule 1 Drug.

Declaring Industrial Hemp legal allows CT to move forward growing and cultivating Hemp as outlined in The Farm Bill: Hemp Provision. Currently, 22 other states are moving in this direction.

Hemp is a 580 million dollar and growing economy in the US. All US products are unfortunately derived from imported Hemp. 30 countries around the world grow **HEMP** with testing and regulations already in place; most US hemp comes Canada and China. Canada's crop is heading towards being a billion dollar business and China is seeking to plant another 2 million acres to replace their pesticide

landed cotton farms. This economy is growing rapidly as the virtues of HEMP as a crop are being rediscovered. Over 25,000 products can be derived from Hemp. CT farmers, businesses and CT can profit from this new avenue of economic growth.

In addition, legalizing Hemp will send a powerful message to the Federal Government that States want the right to grow Hemp without recrimination and to move forward with Bill S 134 "To amend the Controlled Substances Act to exclude industrial hemp from the definition of marihuana, and for other purposes."

Hemp farming will create a cleaner greener environmental future for CT; provide an additional crop for CT farmers to grow with positive environmental and economic effects. The free market, American ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit will discover the most profitable products for CT; it might be paper, food substances, fabric, biodiesel, plastics, hemp crete, animal bedding, and or car parts. Please give CT residents the opportunity to find out which one will be the most profitable.

We urge you to move PROPOSED BILL No. 5780 forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony to you today.

Respectfully submitted,

Margot Johnstone

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